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Dated: February 9, 2009  
Electronic Signature for Kevin J. Canning: /Kevin J. Canning/

Docket No.: DUQ-002RCE2/DEP5290  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Iain Kalfas *et al.*

Application No.: 10/815,883

Confirmation No.: 9073

Filed: March 31, 2004

Art Unit: 3733

For: SPINAL ROD CONNECTOR

Examiner: D. C. Comstock

**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL ACTION**

MS RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

In response to the Final Office Action mailed December 8, 2008 (Paper No. 20081204), Applicants are filing the following amendments and remarks in the above-identified U.S. patent application, along with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE):

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 7 of this paper.